

his dedication to the Corps in which he has proudly served. I would also like to wish him continued success and happiness in his retirement.

THE "AT HOME WITH ARTS." PROGRAM

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a project in my home state of New Jersey that deserves recognition: the "At Home with the ARTS" program. This acronym stands for Alzheimer's Recognition Therapy Service (ARTS). A problem in our society today is the increased presence of Alzheimer's disease. Thanks to a three-year \$217,000 grant by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of Princeton, the ARTS program has expanded to assist more families with the crippling effects of Alzheimer's Disease.

The "At Home with the ARTS" program serves two purposes. First, it helps to improve the quality of life for the individual with Alzheimer's, and secondly, it helps the caregiver cope with the effects of the disease. The program assigns a recreational therapist, who is trained in recreation, music, art, or activity therapy, to a patient with Alzheimer's. The therapist and the patient meet once a week for 12 weeks, during which time the therapist tries a variety of activities to see which is best at securing the patient's attention. The most challenging aspect of this program is finding what activity interests the patient.

This program has been successful in helping people such as Beverly Cohen of Teaneck, whose mother is suffering from Alzheimer's. Since her mother was hard of hearing and did not enjoy watching television, Ms. Cohen tried giving her small tasks to complete—but, her mother was not interested. However, after several weeks of meeting with a recreational therapist, Ms. Cohen discovered that her mother enjoyed arranging dried flowers and pasting magazine pictures on coffee cans. Ms. Cohen said the therapist helped her figure out the things her mother enjoyed doing, and Ms. Cohen feels that both she and her mother have profited greatly from the program.

The success of the "At Home with the ARTS" Program has gained the attention of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and their grant of \$217,000 has helped to create an offshoot program in Hudson and Essex counties. Volunteers of the Foundation's offshoot program serve as companions to Alzheimer's patients, and are trained to provide an additional four hours of recreational therapy per week. This added time greatly improves the changes of providing those who suffer from Alzheimer's with a more active and fulfilling daily routine.

Since it was started in 1995, ARTS has served more than 132 families, and the offshoot program has served 85. Both the program creators and its patients believe the sessions help to reduce the depression and behavioral disorders associated with Alzheimer's.

Fred Brand, Manager of Family Service Programs for the Association said that "Recreational activities won't stop the course of the disease, but (the therapy) is something that brings back memories, brings back a sense of pleasure, and brings back a dormant type of abilities." Finally, all of the program's initiatives are not directed solely towards the patient. At the end of each visit, a half hour is spent with the caregiver so they may learn how to do the activities developed by the therapist themselves.

I want to commend the people involved with the ARTS program and those who volunteer their time for the offshoot program. They truly make a daily difference in many people's lives. I also commend the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for providing the vital financial support to this program and others across the nation.

SOCIAL SECURITY GUARANTEE INITIATIVE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 1999

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf this resolution, which expresses our firm belief that we should work in a bipartisan manner, along with the President, to ensure that the benefits of social security will still be here for our future generations.

This resolution is a compelling one because it recognizes the importance of the Social Security program to America. Social Security is the most successful anti-poverty program currently funded by our federal government. It currently helps support over 44 million people, many of whom depend on it as their sole source of income as they reach the age of retirement.

Even for those who have pension plans and retirement accounts, social security monies are crucial. Many retirement plans do not include extended health care coverage, and even those that do rarely include dollars for prescription medication. For those people, social security keeps Older Americans from having to make the difficult choice between eating, and taking medication that is medically necessary for their life and well-being.

The benefits of social security are even more crucial to women. This is because women tend to live longer than men, and because, as a whole, women work fewer years because they often must stay home part of their careers to help raise their families. Even for those women that manage to have long and full careers, most face one form or another of gender discrimination—which means they often have less money to put in the bank at the end of their work week.

I am also happy to support this resolution because it recognizes the impact and importance of Social Security to the minority community. Like women, minorities rely more heavily on social security because they disproportionately earn less money, and have fewer benefits, than do white workers. As a re-

sult, minorities tend to struggle more with their families as they reach the age of retirement—a time where medical expenses tend to go up rather than down.

For these reasons, preserving social security is simply the right thing to do for all of America. I look forward to working with all of you here in the House to enact a plan that will extend the life of this life-saving program another 30 years, and hope that together, we can resolve this issue for our children, and our children's children.

THE PERKINS COUNTY RURAL WATER SYSTEM ACT OF 1999

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Perkins County Rural Water System Act of 1999. This legislation authorizes the construction of the Perkins County Rural Water System, which when completed, will provide water to over 3,500 people in an area covering 2,866 square miles. This area is larger than each of the states of Rhode Island and Delaware. The project addresses a basic need not currently being met in many areas of my state of South Dakota. That need is for water.

Much like other areas of South Dakota, Perkins County frequently experiences problems involving both the quality and quantity of available water. The present water supply consistently fails to meet standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency for total dissolved solids and sulfates. Additionally, the sodium and fluoride levels have been found to be exceedingly high as determined by the State of South Dakota and numerous medical practitioners in the area. The water of Perkins County impacts not just the quality of life for these South Dakotans, but also their health.

The Perkins County Rural Water System is not a new concept. As testimony before the House Resources Committee last year indicated, the project dates back to 1982 when a group of farmers and ranchers were contacted by the Southwest Pipeline Project in North Dakota to see if they were interested in obtaining water to serve Perkins County. By 1992, Southwest Pipeline had grown to the point that Perkins County could have been included in engineering design work. However, the legislation did not specifically authorize the construction of the Perkins County System. And since 1982, the states of North Dakota and South Dakota recognized Perkins County as a future extension of the Southwest Pipeline project. In fact, the original congressional legislation authorizing the Southwest Pipeline project referred to the potential for a future connection for Perkins County. The current legislation authorizing the construction of this water system recognizes and builds upon this past history.

This legislation was originally introduced during the 104th Congress, and I later reintroduced the measure in the 105th Congress. Since its introduction, the proposal has been the subject of several hearings, and extensive discussions and negotiations between the project sponsors, the Administration, and the